

In the Figures:

Please replace Figures 1-7 with the replacement formal Figures 1-7 filed herewith. The amendments to the particular replacement figures are as follows:

Figure 1. No substantive change is made to the Figure. The replacement Figure 1 merely provides a clearer version of the originally filed Figure.

Figure 2A-C. No substantive change is made to the Figure. The replacement Figure 2A-C merely provides a clearer version of the comparative intensities of the Ag/Au core/shell nanoparticle probes (B) and gold nanoparticle probes (C), without target (I); with target at room temperature (II); and with target at 58 °C (III).

Figure 3. The Figure is amended to indicate the Pt core particle data as a dashed line. The traces have not been modified, other than to hash the Pt core data.

Figure 4. The Figure is amended to indicate the resonance traces associated with the particular shell thickness. Shells of 0 nm thickness are a plain line; shells of ~0.3 nm thickness are indicated by filled circle; shells of ~0.6 nm are indicated by filled square; and shells of ~0.9 nm are indicated by open circle.

Figure 5. The Figure is not substantively changed. The replacement Figure 5 merely provides a clearer version of the originally filed Figure.

Figure 6. The Figure is not amended. The Figure description in the specification is amended as noted above.